

NEGRO WORKERS IN NEW YORK.

By Mary White Ovington.

(Newark, N. J., News.)

"We want to know about the Negro in New York; what kind of work does he engage in, and how much does he suffer from discrimination?"

This is a question frequently asked me, and my interlocutors start, I believe, with erroneous preconceptions on the subject. I find it difficult to give a complete answer. I can only make a beginning.

More than half of the hundred thousand Negroes in Greater New York came to us from the Southern States. Among the men, large numbers are popularly represented as highly skilled workers who on their arrival are ruthlessly prevented by the labor unions from practicing their trades. It is said that they are forbidden to enter upon work for which they are well fitted, and drop into the ranks of unskilled labor.

Now, this is not the case. The number of skilled colored laborers coming to New York from the Southern States is few. Probably in proportion to their numbers we get more skilled men from the West Indies, but from both places the total is inconsiderable. The unions do not refuse hundreds of colored carpenters, masons, engineers; they could not afford to do so. Of the few who apply to them, a part are admitted into the organization. In 1906 the New York Central Federal Union had in its membership 135 colored masons and carpenters, and in the less skilled trades 870 colored rock drillers, teamsters and asphalt workers. The recent action of the Joint District Council of Carpenters in extending to all capable colored carpenters an invitation to join the local in their own districts shows that there is no wholesale discrimination. A single Negro may often meet with refusal, but let the colored men of a trade get together and show their strength, as did the colored carpenters (backed in this case by the Society for Improving the Industrial Condition of the Negro), and they are likely to win their way with organized labor, unless they are unable successfully to practice their trades in the unfamiliar conditions of a Northern city.

The majority of the colored men who come to us from the South seem to lack initiative; they drop into the work of running elevators and opening doors, while their Italian neighbors in the early morning to the market and returns to open his fruit stand, successfully catering to the wants of the Americans, whose language he can only imperfectly speak. But the school in which the black man was trained was that of slavery, and as the historian, U. B. Phillips, has told us, the work of the slave was routine work.

Unlike the frontiersman and the self-sufficing farmer, whose lives are a succession of changes from one occupation to another, slaves were kept to the same tasks, and the success of their industry depended upon the regularity

and the repetition in their work. "By far the greater part of the available labor supply of a plantation was used for the routine work in the fields under the master, the overseer and the foreman." Nor has the condition changed.

A majority of the Negroes of the South still plant their cotton and corn subject to their landlord's supervision or to that of his overseer. They market their cotton as their landlord wishes, buy at his store and are kept in his debt. The Italian at his fruit stand leads a more independent existence than this. In Italy he raised his crops and took them to the village market, the work is dangerous to health and where he learned to do the trading he successfully practices again in his new home. There are the independent colored farmers in the South who might beat him in marketing their produce, but these are not the Negroes who immigrate to New York.

A great deal of severe manual labor is performed by the New York colored man who dies in the tunnels, where "he" acts as longshoreman, or as porter in the store or factory. There is a noticeable decrease of men entering domestic service, and a turning to severe but viable tasks in factory or shop. In these latter positions hours are definite and the home life, made possible by change of occupation, is a gain.

A small professional class comes to us from the South. It is made up of men and women trained usually in the schools of higher education supported by Northern philanthropy. This class settles in New York and performs very creditable work. Among them are lawyers, musicians, teachers, ministers of more than usual ability, who take a respected place in the municipality and who reveal the possibilities of the race.

But the Negro immigrants from the South are only a part of the city's population. What of those who are born and educated in New York? Where are they working and how great are their chances of success? Until the age of fourteen they study with persistence and sometimes with enthusiasm, and then they see the world beginning to turn out. They start to earn their living. The public school has fitted them for no special vocation unless it be a commercial one, and they are barred from clerical positions in wholesale and retail establishments and in factories. Girls, especially, find nothing ahead of them but house-work, unless they are talented enough to enter a profession. Employers of labor, fearing that they may offend a single customer or employee, continually refuse to work colored applicants. I know of one young woman who to 100 milliners' establishments before she could get a position.

Prejudice against the Negro, however, belongs to the few, not the many. The municipality takes applicants for its positions upon another basis than that of color. Examinations are open to all citizens, with the result that colored clerks and school teachers do creditable and acceptable work in the

CHURCH SEATS AND CHURCH PEWS



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UNTIL the large number of people who are never seen in churches can be assured that every church in this vicinity will have a set of seats that will be clean, comfortable and inviting, they will not be seen inside a church. Many churches will supply this long-felt want if they could do so at prices and on terms within their reach, thus increasing their attendance, drawing on the unusually large number of people who do not attend the churches, and which would evidently result in every service being crowded. A barrier has been in the way in the form of high prices, shoddy goods and no terms. This barrier has been removed by the Church Supply Department of the National Baptist Publishing Board, which has presented the new style church seat (its own creation and its own make). These seats are constructed of the best grade of hardwood. They are built by the best skilled mechanics and have proven to be the most comfortable ever offered at the prices. The terms on which they can be purchased are so easy that any church, regardless of its financial condition, can secure a set of these by a small cash payment, have the seats installed and pay the remainder in monthly or quarterly payments to suit their own financial condition. How long, with such inviting inducements offered, will it be, before every church in and about Nashville will get a set of seats? References can be given to the Nashville churches by referring them to Rev. L. Kirkpatrick, pastor of the St. John Baptist Church, Pearl St.; Rev. J. L. Harding, pastor of the North Third Avenue Baptist Church, both of whom have seated with new style church seats; Rev. G. B. Taylor, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, corner Stevens and DeLuge Sts.; Rev. Wm. Haynes, pastor of Sylvan Street Church, Shelby Avenue, who have installed the church pews.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION APPLY TO THE

CHURCH SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

National Baptist Publishing Board,

R. H. BOYD, Secretary.

community. The Negroes, more than any other race, should look forward to the time when the people of the city own its industrial operations; for it is an aristocratic, not a democratic, sentiment that prevents them from performing the services for which they have been educated.

Radical discrimination pushes a few Negroes up and pulls more down. Some boys and girls, knowing that they will be refused in the factory or store the positions they desire, turn to the professions and trades. They become skilled, and the community can not afford to lose their work.

Colored girls who graduate from the Manhattan Trade School, thanks, in part, to the persistence of the managers, are received in good establishments. But while the ambitious succeed, the less courageous are discouraged. Judge Stemons, of Philadelphia, has said that "the moral and intel-

tual advancement of a race is governed by the degree of its industrial freedom. When that freedom is restricted there is unbounded tendency to drive the race discriminated against into the ranks of the criminal." We have no records that show the amount of Negro crime in New York. We do not know whether in proportion to the population it is greater or less than crime among the whites. But we do know, if we care to watch the colored boys and girls as they graduate from school, that the outlook before them is often hard, sometimes bitter.

They have not the chance the white boys and girls have "to count for all they are essentially worth." Denied self-expression through work, they are in danger of falling into idleness, of becoming a menace to their fellows. And they are not the only losers. The city destroys a part of its genius, throws away high natural powers in

music and art and a fine social grace that might strengthen and enrich the commonwealth.

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE.

(February Rules, 1907.)

ERNEST BARLEY VS. MITTIE BARLEY.

In this cause it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, therefore the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon her; it is therefore ordered that said defendant enter her appearance here at the next term of the Davidson County Court, to be holden at the Court House in Nashville, Tennessee, on the 1st Monday in February, it being the 4th, and defend, or said complainant's bill will be taken for confessed as to her and set for hearing ex parte. It is therefore ordered that a copy of this order be published for four weeks in succession in the Nashville Globe, a newspaper published in Nashville.

L. M. HITT, CLERK.

E. R. RUTHERFORD, D. C.

G. F. ANDERSON,
Solicitor for Complainant.

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE.

(October Rules 1907.)

KATIE C. STEELE VS. ED STEELE.

In this cause it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, therefore the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him; it is therefore ordered that said defendant enter his appearance here in at the next term of the Davidson County Circuit Court, to be holden at the Court House in Nashville, Tennessee, on the 1st Monday in February, it being the 4th, and defend, or said complainant's bill will be taken for confessed as to him and set for hearing ex parte. It is therefore ordered that a copy of this order be published for four weeks in succession in the Nashville Globe, a newspaper published in Nashville.

E. R. RUTHERFORD, D. C.

L. M. HITT, Clerk.

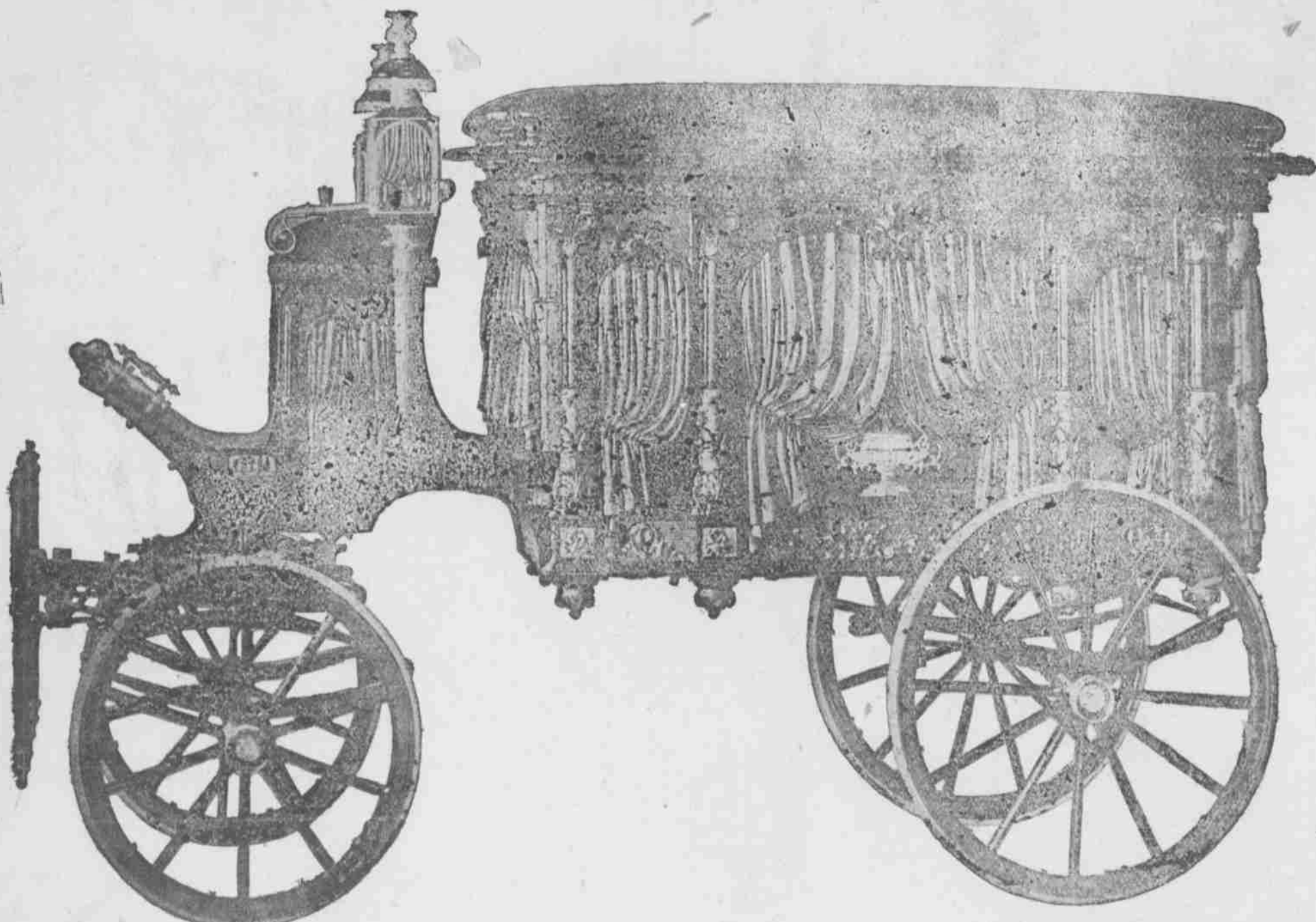
T. G. EWING,
Solicitor for Complainant.

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE.

Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of Eugene Snowden deceased, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to settle same with me duly authorized within the time required by law, or they will forever be barred.

MOLLIE SNOWDEN
Administratrix.

Mrs. W. M. Rucker, of 1000 Elm Avenue, North, served dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Carter.



Car readers will recall the announcement made of Nashville having the finest funeral car ever built for or owned by any colored man in the world and we present to our readers the photograph of this magnificent piece of its city.

him up in his order by the great Cincinnati people who lead the world. Mr. Johnson, while giving our people the finest service, we find that he does not charge one cent more for funerals from his house and that the poorest people in the humblest homes receive his careful and personal attention. He says he recognizes The Globe as the excellence medium of information.

and after so much of his brilliant success to the publicity given his business in our columns. His business is improving daily and he is delighted with the cordial treatment the people are giving. He laughed and said, "Oh, well, I expect a few knocks. Why, that excellent service and equipment is sufficient to cause the rattling of dry bones; but the people will learn that it is an old joke that be-

comes we have the best of everything, that we charge more. When they see and find afterwards that they have selected what they wanted, seen what they wanted beforehand and marvel at the reasonable price and praise us for the courteous and polite treatment. Therefore, why, Mr. Globe Man, we have exceeded our happy expectations."